



Department of Agriculture

USDA Life Cycle Assessment

Name of Commitment/Project

The USDA Life Cycle Assessment Digital Commons

Lead Agency/POC

USDA

POC: Simon Liu (Director, National Agricultural Library)

Partners

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Energy, GreenDelta of Germany, Interuniversity Research Centre for the Life Cycle of Products, Processes and Services of Canada. A number of private organizations and universities have contributed data and support for the project.

Narrative Description

Knowing more about the products we consume and the environmental, social and economic impacts they have is critical to making decisions that lead to more sustainable, greener economies. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a widely used tool that assesses potential environmental impacts for a given product, process, or activity throughout its entire life span. A complete LCA assessment provides a holistic, comprehensive assessment of a product's impacts, from those associated with the inputs used in its production through to those arising from its consumption and disposal. LCA can be expanded to include impacts related to the economic and social pillars of sustainable development through economic valuations and measurement of social indicators such as labor, justice, and equity. Governments, industries and international organizations increasingly recognize the usefulness of LCA in analysing tradeoffs to improve resource efficiency, conservation, and the greening of the economy.

USDA is committed to sharing this tool through LCA Digital Commons ,an open-access, comprehensive inventory of peer-reviewed, standard formatted US LCA data. It is USDA's contribution to the collection, organization, management, dissemination, and preservation of LCA data for current and future public and private decision-making and research.

Implementation Location

United States

Metrics for Measuring Success

- 1) Initial posting of the open access Digital Commons
- 2) Maintenance and growth of the Digital Commons database

Multimedia linkages

www.lcacommons.gov

Plan for Reporting Progress

Progress will be monitored via update website.